

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE UNITED STATES
FOR THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COLUMBIA DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Criminal No: 3:15-po-9

v.

PLEA AGREEMENT

GREGORIO M. LEON
a/k/a "Greg Leon"

General Provisions

This PLEA AGREEMENT is made this 15th day of October, 2015, between the United States of America, as represented by United States Attorney WILLIAM N. NETTLES, Assistant United States Attorneys Julius N. Richardson and James Hunter May; the State of South Carolina, as represented by Attorney General ALAN WILSON and Assistant Attorney General Creighton Waters; the Defendant, **GREGORIO M. LEON**; and Defendant's attorney, Richard A. Harpootlian.

IN CONSIDERATION of the mutual promises made herein, the parties agree as follows:

1. The Defendant agrees to waive Indictment and arraignment, and plead guilty to an Information charging unlawful employment of illegal aliens, in violation of Title 8, United States Code, Sections 1324a(a)(2) and 1324a(f)(1). In order to sustain its burden of proof, the Government is required to prove the following:

- a. The defendant has a pattern or practice of hiring illegal aliens for employment in the United States;
- b. The persons hired were illegal aliens; and
- c. The defendant knew the illegal aliens were not authorized to be employed.

The penalty for this offense is:

A maximum fine of not more than \$3,000 for each unauthorized alien with respect to whom such a violation occurs, imprisonment for not more than six months for the entire pattern or practice or both; as well as a term of probation or supervised release of not more than one year, plus a special assessment of \$10.

The defendant also agrees to plead guilty in South Carolina General Sessions Court to paying a public official for assistance in violation of South Carolina Code Section 8-13-720. The United States agrees to recommend that any sentences the defendant receives for the above-referenced violations be served concurrently.

2. The Defendant understands that the obligations of the Government within the Plea Agreement are expressly contingent upon the Defendant's abiding by federal and state laws and complying with any bond executed in this case. In the event that the Defendant fails to comply with any of the provisions of this Agreement, either express or implied, the Government will have the right, at its sole election, to void all of its

obligations under this Agreement and the Defendant will not have any right to withdraw his plea of guilty to the offense(s) enumerated herein.

Cooperation

3. The Defendant agrees to be fully truthful and forthright with federal, state and local law enforcement agencies by providing full, complete and truthful information about all criminal activities about which he has knowledge. The Defendant must provide full, complete and truthful debriefings about these unlawful activities and must fully disclose and provide truthful information to the Government including any books, papers, or documents or any other items of evidentiary value to the investigation. The Defendant must also testify fully and truthfully before any grand juries and at any trials or other proceedings if called upon to do so by the Government, subject to prosecution for perjury for not testifying truthfully. The failure of the Defendant to be fully truthful and forthright at any stage will, at the sole election of the Government, cause the obligations of the Government within this Agreement to become null and void. Further, it is expressly agreed that if the obligations of the Government within this Agreement become null and void due to the lack of truthfulness on the part of the Defendant, the Defendant understands that:

- a. the Defendant will not be permitted to withdraw his plea of guilty to the offenses described above;
- b. all additional charges known to the Government may be filed in the appropriate district;
- c. the Government will argue for a maximum sentence for the offense to which the Defendant has pleaded guilty; and
- d. the Government will use any and all information and testimony provided by the Defendant pursuant to this Agreement, or any prior proffer agreements, in the prosecution of the Defendant of all charges.

4. The Defendant agrees to submit to such polygraph examinations as may be requested by the Government and agrees that any such examinations shall be performed by a polygraph examiner selected by the Government. Defendant further agrees that his refusal to take or his failure to pass any such polygraph examination to the Government's satisfaction will result, at the Government's sole discretion, in the obligations of the Government within the Agreement becoming null and void.

5. The Government agrees that any self-incriminating information provided by the Defendant as a result of the cooperation required by the terms of this Agreement, although

available to the Court, will not be used against the Defendant in determining the Defendant's applicable guideline range for sentencing pursuant to the U.S. Sentencing Commission Guidelines. The provisions of this paragraph shall not be applied to restrict any such information:

- a. known to the Government prior to the date of this Agreement;
- b. concerning the existence of prior convictions and sentences;
- c. in a prosecution for perjury or giving a false statement; or
- d. in the event the Defendant breaches any of the terms of the Plea Agreement.

6. Provided the Defendant cooperates pursuant to the provisions of this Plea Agreement, and that cooperation is deemed by the Government as providing substantial assistance in the investigation or prosecution of another person, the Government agrees to move the Court for a downward departure or reduction of sentence pursuant to United States Sentencing Guidelines §5K1.1, Title 18, United States Code, § 3553(e) or Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 35(b). Any such motion by the Government is not binding upon the Court, and should the Court deny the motion, the Defendant will have no right to withdraw his plea.

Merger and Other Provisions

7. The Defendant and the Government agree that the appropriate penalty for his violation of Title 8, United States Code, Sections 1324a(a)(2) and 1324a(f)(1) should be a fine of \$180,000 and one year of probation. The Defendant and the Government also agree that the \$180,000 fine should be made payable in three equal installments made in the first, sixth, and eleventh month of his term of probation.

8. The Defendant represents to the court that he has met with his attorney on a sufficient number of occasions and for a sufficient period of time to discuss the Defendant's case and receive advice; that the Defendant has been truthful with his attorney and related all information of which the Defendant is aware pertaining to the case; that the Defendant and his attorney have discussed possible defenses, if any, to the charges in the Information including the existence of any exculpatory or favorable evidence or witnesses, discussed the Defendant's right to a public trial by jury or by the Court, the right to the assistance of counsel throughout the proceedings, the right to call witnesses in the Defendant's behalf and compel their attendance at trial by subpoena, the right to confront and cross-examine the government's witnesses, the Defendant's right to testify in his own behalf, or to remain silent and have no adverse inferences drawn from his silence; and that the

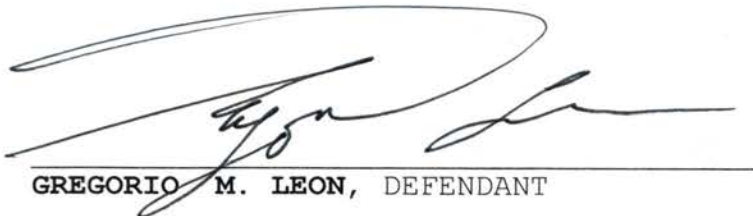
Defendant, with the advice of counsel, has weighed the relative benefits of a trial by jury or by the Court versus a plea of guilty pursuant to this Agreement, and has entered this Agreement as a matter of the Defendant's free and voluntary choice, and not as a result of pressure or intimidation by any person.

9. The Defendant is aware that 18 U.S.C. § 3742 and 28 U.S.C. § 2255 afford every defendant certain rights to contest a conviction and/or sentence. Acknowledging those rights, the Defendant, in exchange for the concessions made by the Government in this Plea Agreement, waives the right to contest either the conviction or the sentence in any direct appeal or other post-conviction action, including any proceedings under 28 U.S.C. § 2255. (This waiver does not apply to claims of ineffective assistance of counsel or prosecutorial misconduct raised pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2255.)

10. The Defendant waives all rights, whether asserted directly or by a representative, to request or receive from any department or agency of the United States any records pertaining to the investigation or prosecution of this case, including without limitation any records that may be sought under the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552, or the Privacy Act of 1974, 5 U.S.C. § 552a.

11. The parties hereby agree that this Plea Agreement contains the entire agreement of the parties; that this Agreement supersedes all prior promises, representations and statements of the parties; that this Agreement shall not be binding on any party until the Defendant tenders a plea of guilty to the court having jurisdiction over this matter; that this Agreement may be modified only in writing signed by all parties; and that any and all other promises, representations and statements, whether made prior to, contemporaneous with or after this Agreement, are null and void.

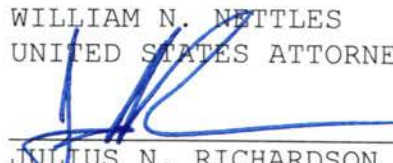
10/15/15
Date


GREGORIO M. LEON, DEFENDANT

10/15/15
DATE

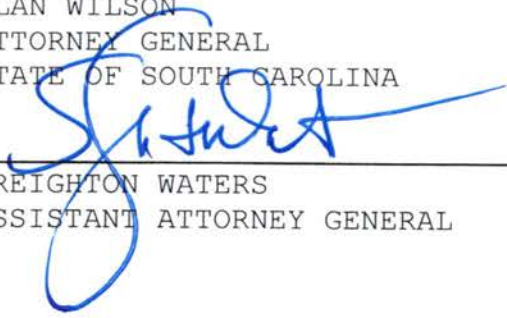

RICHARD A. HARPOOTLIAN
ATTORNEY FOR THE DEFENDANT

10/15/15
Date

WILLIAM N. NETTLES
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

JULIUS N. RICHARDSON
JAMES HUNTER MAY
ASSISTANT UNITED STATES ATTORNEYS

10/15/15
Date

ALAN WILSON
ATTORNEY GENERAL
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA



CREIGHTON WATERS
ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
Statement of Special Assessment Amount

This statement reflects your special assessment only. There may be other penalties imposed at sentencing. This Special Assessment is due and payable at the time of the execution of the plea agreement.

| ACCOUNT INFORMATION | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| CRIM. ACTION NO.: | |
| DEFENDANT'S NAME: | GREGORIO M. LEON |
| PAY THIS AMOUNT: | \$10.00 |
| PAYMENT DUE ON OR BEFORE: | (date plea agreement signed) |

MAKE CHECK OR MONEY ORDER PAYABLE TO:
CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT

PAYMENT SHOULD BE SENT TO:
Clerk, U.S. District Court
Matthew J. Perry, Jr. Courthouse
901 Richland Street
Columbia, SC 29201

OR HAND DELIVERED TO:
Clerk's Office
Matthew J. Perry, Jr. Courthouse
901 Richland Street
Columbia, SC 29201 (Mon. – Fri. 8:30 a.m.– 4:30 p.m.)

INCLUDE DEFENDANT'S NAME ON CHECK OR MONEY ORDER (Do Not send cash)

ENCLOSE THIS COUPON TO INSURE PROPER and PROMPT APPLICATION OF PAYMENT